

MINUTES
Human Services Department Advisory Committee
February 20, 2013
2:00-3:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

PRESENT: E. Mantzaris (Chair), K. Grunwald (staff), F. Goetz, R. Baker, S. Anderson, L. Kenowski, V. Nimirowski, D. Eddy

REGRETS: B. Korba

I. Call to Order: Chair E. Mantzaris called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

II. Approval of minutes: The minutes of January 16, 2013 were approved unanimously without revision.

III. Departmental Update: K. Grunwald provided the following update:

Adult Services:

- └ Quarterly Report for Oct.-Dec. 2012 was distributed.
- └ The Services and Programs Document was distributed, which is part of the FY 14 budget packet.
- └ The proposed FY 14 Departmental Goals were distributed.

Youth Services:

- └ The Grief Matters 6 week program will be starting next week.

Senior Services:

- └ A proposal has been submitted to the Town Manager to pilot a weekly fixed route trip with the new van.
- └ The personnel committee of the Town Council has reviewed the opening for a Senior Social Worker, but has not made a specific recommendation. Kathy Ann Easley has been temporarily reassigned to the Senior Center one day a week.

Early Childhood Services:

- └ The Take Note fund-raising concert for the playground has been rescheduled for May.

IV. Discussion of Non-Profit Agency Funding Requests

- └ CT Legal Services: V. Nimirowski spoke highly of the services that are provided by this agency, which opened 55 new cases for Mansfield residents this past year. Funding in the amount of \$6000 was recommended unanimously.

└ United Services: V. Nimirowski explained that this is the primary mental health agency for this region. She stated that it was difficult to determine how many Mansfield residents were served due to the reporting format. Their request is based on a per capita formula of 26,000+ residents, although the number for non-group quarter's residents is closer to 13,000. Funding in the amount of \$9000 was recommended unanimously.

└ Holy Family Home and Shelter: R. Baker was unable to talk with staff. The application was reviewed and funding in the amount of \$3000 was recommended unanimously.

└ Perception Programs: J. Terry was not present. Members reviewed the application and recommended funding in the amount of \$1000. E. Mantzaris abstained.

└ Sexual Assault Crisis Center: L. Kenowski presented the broad spectrum of services provided to victims of sexual assault. Funding in the amount of \$4000 was recommended unanimously.

└ Veteran's Advisory Center: D. Eddy presented the range of services offered through the Advisory Center. There were some questions about their relationship to WRCC and the percentage of Mansfield residents served. Funding was recommended in the amount of \$13,260.

└ WAIM: S. Anderson presented the work that is done in this community by WAIM, and noted the impact that it has on diverting items from the Transfer Station to be reused. Funding in the amount of \$5000 was recommended unanimously. V. Nimirowski abstained.

└ Windham Harm Reduction Coalition: E. Mantzaris presented their application, and raised concerns about duplication of services, philosophical issues related to a needle exchange, lack of a local board, and the grass roots nature of this organization. It was decided unanimously not to recommend funding.

└ Windham No-Freeze Project: B. Korba was not present. Members reviewed the application and recommended funding in the amount of \$2000.

V. Follow-Up: Recommendations Regarding this Committee

└ Members reviewed the work from last month that evaluated and prioritized roles and responsibilities of this committee.

└ The committee will make a formal recommendation to the Committee on Committees to continue this advisory committee. The recommendations for changes to the structure of the committee will be made, and a face-to-face meeting will be requested.

└ Members want to ensure that this committee will have a role in the hiring of a new director.

VI. Other (can be added by 2/3 vote)

VII. Future Agenda Items/ Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is March 20, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Grunwald